



Committee On Finance

Max Baucus, Ranking Member

NEWS RELEASE

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Contacts: Laura Hayes, Lara Birkes
202-224-4515

Baucus Comments on Resignation of Inspector General Janet Rehnquist

Ms. Rehnquist's decision to resign was right under the circumstances. It is critically important that we have a strong and effective Inspector General at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and that the IG can be trusted by our nation's taxpayers to be fair, nonpartisan, and a tough force against fraud and abuse. The Inspector General's office plays a critical role in ensuring the integrity of Medicare and Medicaid, and it oversees programs making up almost 25 percent of the entire federal budget.

Over the last few months, I have grown increasingly concerned by Ms. Rehnquist's actions. I do not believe that she was the right person for the job at this time. At all times, I have worked closely with Chairman Grassley to explore these concerns. Today's decision proves that the checks and balances of government are working.

Now that Ms. Rehnquist has made the decision to step down from her post as IG, I am committed to working together with Chairman Grassley to quickly and thoroughly confirm her successor and restore the faith of the American public in the position of HHS Inspector General.